

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

March 18, 2004
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at the above location, followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of (10) members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	(Doug White)	(Ben Carter)	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	Dan Silva	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borror	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR		(Dwight Russell)	Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			Darrin Thome
USCOE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Manager Burt Bundy
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. Unscheduled Matters: None to report at this time.
2. Consent Calendar: A motion was made by Denny Bungarz to adopt the February 19, 2004 Board minutes, seconded by Mel Dodgin. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
3. Strategic Planning Process – Burt Bundy discussed the current status of the 3-Year Strategic Plan and Annual Plan. To date the Mission Statement, Long-Term Vision, and Core Values have been adopted by the Board. The 3-Year Strategic Plan has had public comment, Board discussion and revisions by the Planning Committee. Comments have also been received on the Annual Plan and that document is still being refined. The consultant, Marc Smiley, has offered some governance recommendations to help accomplish the organizational goals. Those recommendations were provided to the Board for the first time today. Those recommendations include:
 - a. Define Board member job description
 - b. Outline Process to recruit Board members
 - c. Establish supporting signatories policy
 - d. Develop committee work plans
 - e. Clarify committee decision making process

Marc also provided a funding plan, both short and long-term, for review. The Executive Committee will address the governance issues for possible adoption at the June Board meeting. The Planning Committee will meet prior to the April Board meeting to finalize the 3-Year Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan for possible adoption at the April Board meeting. Burt provided a handout to the Board and asked them to select the five strategies they felt were the most important to accomplish under the Programmatic Goals and Strategies and rate them 1 – 5, with 1 being the highest priority. He asked that they select the two most important strategies under the Organizational Goals and Strategies and rate them as well. The prioritization of strategies had also been done at the LAC and TAC. This process will help in the development of the Annual Work Plan. Following the prioritization by the Board, Burt asked for the Board's comments. Diana Jacobs raised a concern about language under the Landowner Support Goal that referred to "Providing incentives to landowners....." There was a concern that this might be misleading as the SRCAF is not in a position to help landowners financially. Burt suggested it could be ways other than financially, i.e. permit streamlining, but it may need further discussion to see if it should be worded differently.

4. Agency Reports – Sara Schultz, Corps of Engineers (COE), was introduced to update the group on the Hamilton City Project Feasibility Report. Sara gave a brief background of the "J"-Levee, constructed approximately 100 years ago, and the frequent flooding events in the Hamilton City area. The Hamilton City Project is a multi-purpose project which includes both flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration; the restoration component enabled it to be a federally justified project. The tentatively recommended plan would construct a 6.8 mile setback levee, restore 1500 acres, would remove most of the "J" Levee, and would protect existing infrastructure. At the northern end it would provide the community with a 90% confidence of passing a 75-year event. The level of protection under the proposed plan would be increased 8x for the town and 4x times for agricultural lands. Most of the lands have been purchased and are in conservation ownership. The estimated total project cost is \$43.8 million with ecosystem restoration costs being 90% of the total and flood damage reduction costs 10% of the total. Bill Paris stressed the accounting approach taken by the COE has been a great benefit to the locals. The estimated annual operation and maintenance costs would be \$56,000.00, a small portion of which would be for ecosystem maintenance as plantings are expected to be self-sufficient. The Draft Feasibility Report/EIS/EIR is scheduled for printing in the Federal Register April 2, 2004 for a 45 day review period. The SRCAF will held coordinate a public meeting in April, followed by the final Feasibility Report/EIS/EIR, with potential congressional authorization in October 2004, and potential start of construction in 2006. Denny reported that Glenn County has been extremely happy with the process; the COE has been very open and has included everyone in the discussions. A concern was raised about the proposed removal of most, rather than all, of the J-Levee. There was also a question about the 90% at 75-year level of protection and the impact to the locals.

Mark Charlton, COE, recently returned from Washington; the COE budget is in the \$4 billion range, \$1 billion less than five years ago. Most of the projects in their small projects program have been stopped. He noted that the Office of Management and Budget has been displaying an interest in their projects in the middle of the studies rather than after a project is completed.

Darrin Thome, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), reported the Department of the Interior has no email access. He also reported on a meeting with representatives from Department of Fish and Game (DFG), USFWS, and Renee Hawkins, CALFED, to discuss permit streamlining in general. This was a follow-up to recent discussions at the Landowner Assurances Committee meeting. They came up with some good ideas but need concrete examples of conflicts to help identify solutions.

Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, reported there were no new applications or permits issued in the conservation area. A 1986 lawsuit has been settled that found the State of California liable if a levee fails determining they should have reasonably known there is a deficiency. The question was raised whether the issue is more of design criteria rather than maintenance. Pete noted the Reclamation Board will still need to do everything it can, but it will change how they look at their participation in new projects. John Merz spoke to the reliability of levees and the trouble the COE has certifying levees because they weren't built to their standards.

Stacy Cepello announced Lester Snow has been appointed the new Director for the Department of Water Resources (DWR). A letter has been sent to him requesting a meeting with representatives from the SRCAF and DWR, Northern District.

5. Board Committee Reports –

- *Executive Committee* – Don reported the committee had decided to skip the May Board meeting. The June meeting, set for June 17th, will be the annual barbeque. The suggested location for the barbeque was the Colusa-Sacramento River State Park.
- *Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC)* – The committee began preliminary discussion on GNP #4 pertaining to the SRCA as a self-mitigating area. Jeff Sutton reported on the ad hoc committee comprised of himself, Carol Wright, and Renee Hawkins; the committee has been working on a Voluntary Alternative Dispute Resolution (VADR) process. The idea was to look at ways of preventing conflicts early in the project planning process. The VADR is a two-tiered process consisting of mediation and arbitration. Funding sources are still under discussion and will be on the April LAC agenda. There has been agreement that the development of the VADR process is moving in a positive direction. Habitat Conservation Plans have been discussed because the regional solution is attractive, but it is a very lengthy process and doesn't seem to fit the agricultural concerns.
- *Boat Ramp Committee* – Denny will get in touch with a contact that was suggested by Mark Charlton as a starting point.
- *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)* – Discussion continued at the March TAC on buffer zones and what are real, versus perceived, impacts. The April TAC meeting has been scheduled for April 13th with a site visit to the Ord Bend Restoration Project site where the proponents have incorporated the use of buffer zones and then to Don Anderson's property. The Drumheller Slough project was discussed at the March TAC but, because there were some questions concerning contact with adjoining landowners, River Partners agreed to address those questions, bring the project back to the TAC in April, and then go forward to the Board. River Partners also updated the TAC on the Riparian Restoration Planning and Feasibility Study for

the Riparian Sanctuary, Llano Seco Unit. They are looking at restoring 500 acres on the Llano Seco Unit and are working closely with the Princeton, Cordora, Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts looking at alternatives to protect the fish screen and pumping plant. They have scheduled a meeting for April 28th to gather public input.

6. Manager's Report –

- Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough is one of the COE projects that cannot move forward at this point due to lack of funding.
- The Nature Conservancy and CALFED are close to finalizing the contract on the Colusa Sub-reach Study.
- M&T Pumping Plant – A 3-day meeting is currently being held in Chico to look at alternatives for a long-term solution to the gravel bar intrusion at the pumping plant.

Mel Dodgin has expressed his desire to retire; names have been submitted to the Secretary for Resources who will make the final decision on Mel's replacement. The Chair expressed his appreciation and thanks to Mel for his 15 years of support to the 1086 Program.

7. Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. in Willows at the Monday Afternoon Club.